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LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the coup d'état in Niger.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the coup d'état in Niger, issued on 29 January 1996 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the coup d'état that took place in Niger on 27 January 1996, interrupting abruptly the process of democratization launched in 1993 with legislative and presidential elections. The European Union deplores the decision of the military to take over power, to overthrow democratically elected authorities and to suspend the constitution and political parties.

The perpetrators of the coup d'état will be held responsible for the safety of the legitimate authorities who are currently being detained. The European Union demands their liberation and the restoration of constitutional law.

In conformity with article 366-bis of the Convention of Lomé, the European Union has decided to suspend its development cooperation with Niger for a period of six months, except for humanitarian assistance and aid directly benefiting the poorest sections of the population.